

REMARKS

The present Amendment is responsive to the Official Action of August 16, 2007. The Official Action rejected all of the claims pending in the application. Specifically, independent Claims 1, 15, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,532,589 to Proehl *et al.* ("the '589 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,369,840 to Barnett *et al.* ("the '840 patent"). The only remaining independent claim, Claim 10, was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the combination of the '589 patent, the '840 patent, and U.S. Patent No. 6,430,359 to Yuen *et al.* ("the '359 patent"). U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0283810 to Ellis *et al.* ("the '810 publication") was also cited in rejecting various dependent claims.

By the present Amendment, Claims 1, 4-6, 10, 15, 16, 19-21, 25, 27, 28, 30-33, 36-38, and 40 have been amended, and Claims 41-43 have been newly added. No new matter has been added, as the amendments are supported at least by the specification at paragraph 0022. Reconsideration of the claims in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Overview of the Independent Claims

Amended independent Claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A method comprising:
 - accessing an electronic programming guide, the electronic programming guide listing a plurality of scheduled broadcast programs and comprising information associated with each of the plurality of scheduled broadcast programs;
 - displaying the accessed electronic programming guide on the electronic display;
 - selecting at least one of the plurality of scheduled broadcast programs in the accessed electronic programming guide; and
 - visually associating in the electronic program guide a user identifier with the at least one of the plurality of scheduled broadcast programs selected in the accessed electronic program guide.

Amended independent Claims 10, 15, and 25 also include recitations similar to “visually associating in an electronic program guide/electronic calendar a user identifier with the at least one selected broadcast program/new broadcast event entry.”

II. Summary of Cited Art

The ‘589 patent discloses a method and apparatus for providing a calendar-based on-screen planner, also referred to in the patent as a “TV planner.” The ‘589 patent describes how a user can access an electronic programming guide (“EPG”) and select various scheduled television programs from the EPG that the user wishes to record or about which the user wishes to be reminded. The user can then access the TV planner to view a monthly or daily view of the television programs that the user has selected to record or to be reminded about. *See* the ‘589 patent, FIGS. 9 and 10.

The ‘840 patent discloses a computer-implemented system for generating and displaying a calendar containing user-selected events from user-selected categories. Multiple categories of events are provided, in some embodiments via the Internet. *See* col. 4, lines 61-65 of the ‘840 patent. The user can select categories of interest from the plurality of categories of events, and then the user can select individual events within those categories. Events are overlaid on a calendar unique to the user. Calendars may also be shared among a number of selected users, if desired.

The ‘359 patent is directed to allowing a timer preprogramming feature on a video cassette recorder to be programmed via a compressed code from encoded video recorder/player timer preprogramming information listed in a television calendar. The encoded video recorder/player timer preprogramming information are decoded by a decoder built into a remote control, video cassette recorder, television, or other video device to convert the compressed code into channel, date, time and length information. The compressed code indications associated with each television program can be printed in a television program calendar in advance. The user would use the remote control or controls on the video device to enter the code that signifies

the program to be recorded. Overall, the '359 patent is directed to programming a video cassette recorder using compressed codes, and is unrelated to accessing online event lists and importing therefrom into an online calendar, as described in the '840 patent.

The '810 publication is directed to an interactive television program guide system. An interactive television program guide provides users with an opportunity to select programs for recording on a remote media server. Programs may also be recorded on a local media server. The program guide provides users with VCR-like control over programs that are played back from the media servers and over real-time cached copies of the programs. The program guide also provides users with an opportunity to designate gift recipients for whom programs may be recorded. *See* Abstract of the '810 publication.

III. All Existing Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references discloses at least visually associating in an electronic program guide or electronic calendar a user identifier with the at least one new broadcast event entry, as recited, in one form or another, in amended independent Claims 1, 10, 15, and 25. In some embodiments, this feature may prove useful, for example, in cases where an electronic programming guide and an electronic calendar associated therewith are shared by multiple users, allowing each user to quickly identify broadcast event entries respectively associated with that user.

For at least the above reason, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 10, 15, and 25, as well as the claims respectively depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited references, taken either individually or in combination.

Application No.: 10/035,557
Amendment Dated December 7, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 16, 2007

CONCLUSION

In view of the amended claims and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard D. Emery
Registration No. 58,894

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111
LEGAL02/30624874v1

ELECTRONICALLY FILED USING THE EFS-WEB ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE ON DECEMBER 7, 2007.